

GPH NEWS

**THE WORLD'S
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PORT OPERATOR**

INTERVIEW

AZIZ GUNGOR

From Kusadasi to East Med Regional Director

SPECIAL FEATURE

BOZIDAR LONGIN

Zadar: A thriving 3,000 year old town filled with history & culture

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SHOREX OPPORTUNITIES

Exploring the destinations of GPH Ports.

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**GLOBAL PORTS
HOLDING**



SPOTLIGHT

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A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Industry Partners,

As the world's largest cruise port operator, we take immense pride in our pivotal role in driving the growth of the cruise industry. GPH has achieved a robust commencement, and I am absolutely delighted by the exceptional performance exhibited throughout our expansive port network.

Our proactive approach has positioned us with a promising array of opportunities to expand the footprint of ports within our network. This unyielding commitment propels GPH confidently into the future, as we continue to stride forward with determination.

I am thrilled to share that the Government of Saint Lucia has bestowed upon GPH the cruise port concession for this stunning destination. This accomplishment marks yet another monumental achievement in our ongoing efforts to expand our worldwide cruise port network.

Moreover, I am pleased to report that we are nearing the final stages of securing the financial closure to operate the San Juan Cruise Port. This impending addition further solidifies our position as a leader in the industry, as well as our position within the Caribbean.

The journey of Global Ports Holding continues to be one of unwavering dedication, strategic growth, and profound partnerships. As we navigate the ever-evolving landscape of the cruise industry, we remain resolute in our pursuit of excellence, sustainability, and innovation. Our team's passion, combined with the trust of governments, communities, and passengers worldwide, fuels our drive to create exceptional cruise experiences while leaving a positive footprint on the destinations we touch.

With each new horizon, we are excited to chart our course toward a future where GPH stands as an exemplar of responsible port operations, passenger experience, and transformative collaborations. Thank you for joining us on this extraordinary voyage.

Mehmet Kutman

Chairman & CEO, Global Ports Holding Plc

**SUCCESSFUL LEADERSHIP IS ONLY
ACHIEVABLE WITH A DEDICATED
AND ACCOMPLISHED TEAM.**

Tell us about yourself.

I was born in 1976 in Germany to a working-class family. After my father, a Welding Master in the German automotive industry, retired, we relocated to Turkey when I was 10. I began my professional journey early, studying Tourism Administration and Hospitality Management at Turkey's esteemed Mediterranean University. In 1994, during my first university year, I joined Setur Antalya Marina as a part-time German-speaking employee, igniting my maritime tourism career. For almost 30 years, I've been dedicated to this industry, which started when I worked at a marina at age 18, infatuated by yachts and travellers from around the world.

From 1994 to 2006, I held diverse roles across Setur Marinas, a subsidiary of Turkey's Koç Holding. By March 2006, I managed Setur Kuşadası Marina and led Sales and Marketing for seven Setur Marinas. A new chapter unfolded when I became General Manager of Ege Port Kuşadası, Turkey's busiest cruise port and a key GPH cruise port. Despite initial challenges, I quickly adapted. After GPH acquired Antalya Cruise Port in 2007 and Bodrum Cruise Port in 2008, I assumed responsibility for managing Bodrum Cruise Port as well, sharing Ege Port's expertise. Today, as Bodrum Cruise Port celebrates its 15th anniversary, it flourishes with success.

Following GPH's swift growth and organisational changes, I took on the position of Regional Director for Eastern Mediterranean ports in 2019. Beyond work, I serve on boards and committees for Medcruise, TÜRKLİM (The Association of Turkish Ports), and DTO's Ports Committee. I recently celebrated my 17th GPH anniversary, full of gratitude. Watching GPH and Ege Port Kuşadası's exceptional achievements has been remarkable. Being part of the world's largest cruise port operator is a source of pride and accomplishment.

As the leader of Ege Port Kuşadası, can you share your vision for the future of the port and the role it will play in shaping the trajectory of cruise tourism in the East Med region?

Indeed, if this term accurately reflects the role, I am the leader of this port. Yet, successful leadership is only achievable with a dedicated and accomplished team. We've been working together for an extensive period, knowing each other intimately. They are exceptional experts in their respective domains—enthusiastic, diligent, and remarkably successful. I take immense pride in their contributions.

Refocusing on the matter at hand, Ege Port Kuşadası embodies the living history of cruise tourism in Turkey. Serving cruise ships for over five decades, it has consistently been the premier cruise port, hosting more than 50% of Turkey's total cruise traffic. This port, cherished and renowned in the Mediterranean, boasts one of the industry's highest satisfaction rates. This recognition undoubtedly stems from the presence of world-renowned historical sites such as the Ancient City of Ephesus and the House of the Blessed Virgin Mary, both in close proximity. However, its modern facilities and top-notch services also play a pivotal role in its acclaim.

As we delve into Ege Port Kuşadası's achievements, it's imperative to honor a significant figure who left an indelible mark on the port. Precisely two decades ago, the visionary behind Ege Port Kuşadası was the late Gregory Michael Kiez, the Founder of GPH and Ege Port



Kuşadası (former Chairman of both). Guided by this Kuşadası aimed not only to excel locally and in the Mediterranean, but also globally. It closely monitored technological and ecological advancements, integrating them into its operational framework to contribute to the growth and development of the cruise industry. The port also aspired to bolster Turkey's economy, the Mediterranean region, and the global economy through sustainable port management that respects the environment and societal well-being. Additionally, it prioritised the welfare, occupational health, and happiness of its employees and families. It is with immense pride that we celebrate the realisation of many of these goals as the port recently marked its 20th anniversary.

This port occupies a pivotal role in the Eastern Mediterranean cruise market, annually serving over 40 cruise lines across a diverse range of segments, from luxury to budget cruising. From pilotage, tugging, line-handling, and berthing to security, fresh water, waste reception services, and passenger terminal facilities, it showcases a unique in-house port management model that amalgamates various services. Furthermore, Ege Port Kuşadası likely hosts the largest travel retail space within the cruise port realm, offering passengers and crew an exceptional in-port shopping experience.

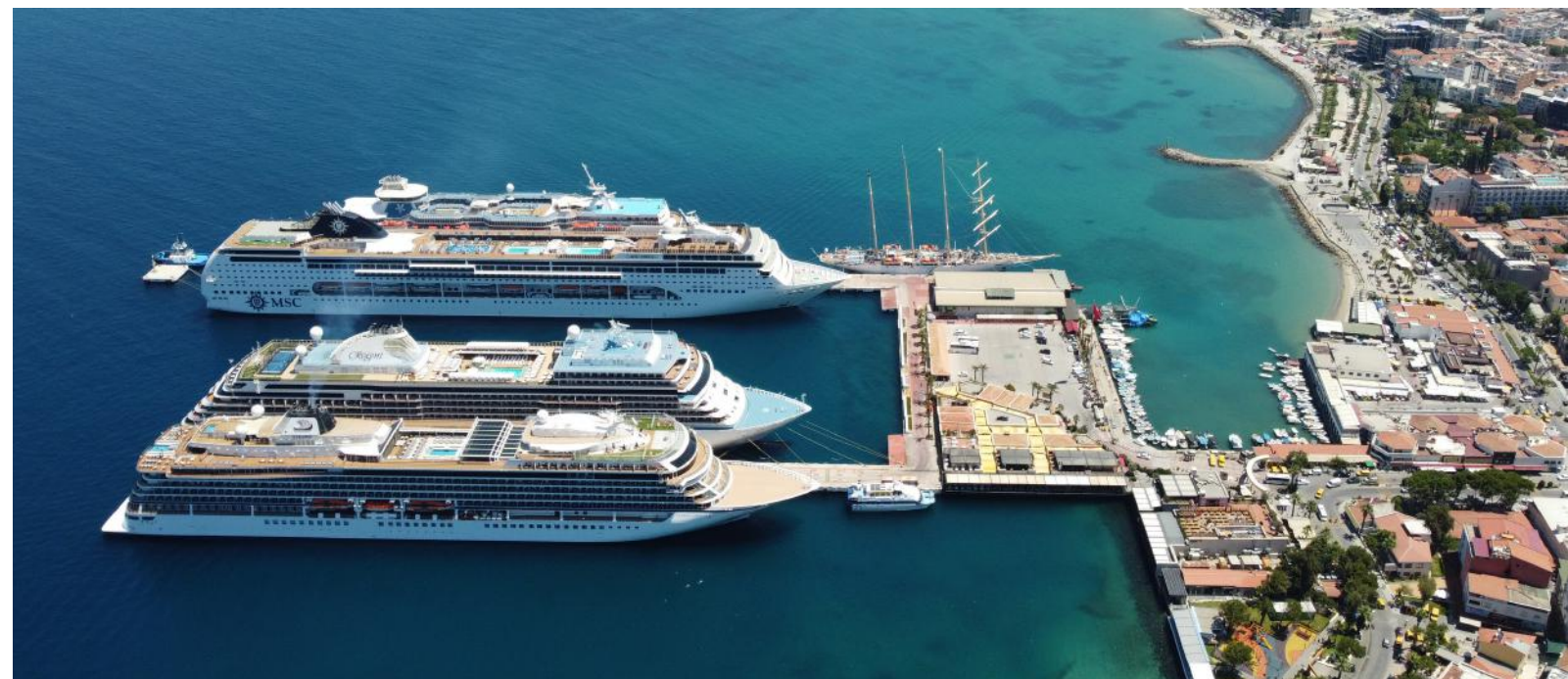
As Ege Port Kuşadası celebrates its 20th year, can you share some highlights of the port's journey and the significant milestones achieved during these two decades?

The concept of establishing a ports holding company emerged after the acquisition of Ege Port Kuşadası. Consequently, Ege Port Kuşadası forms

the foundation of GPH. Astonishingly, this remarkable journey commenced two decades ago.

Speaking of noteworthy accomplishments and pivotal moments, I'm pleased to share that Ege Port Kuşadası has consistently been a trailblazing port. Its two decades of history are adorned with such remarkable feats. Beyond being Turkey's busiest cruise port for 20 years, it earned the distinction of becoming the first port in Turkey to receive the ISPS certificate in 2004. In 2005, it became the first Turkish port to be granted the ISO 9001-14001-18001 certificates, standards it has upheld ever since. Additionally, in 2005, it introduced the Mediterranean region's inaugural shopping center within a port—a "retailtainment" haven with 55 stores, offering a unique shopping experience to its 1.5 million local and cruise visitors annually.

CLIA acknowledged Ege Port Kuşadası's security practices as exemplary in 2007, designating it a leading port for superior security services among CLIA member ports. In 2011, it demonstrated visionary foresight by extending the length of its finger piers and making investments to accommodate the world's largest ships, as listed in the order book. In 2014, it stood as Turkey's first cruise port to receive the "Green Port" certificate and, in 2018, secured the world's inaugural "EcoPorts" certificate awarded to a cruise port. Notably, in 2018, Ege Port Kuşadası formulated the GPH Port & Terminal Facility Security Code, serving as the security standard across all GPH ports. Similarly, the GPH Health, Safety & Environment Code, introduced in 2019, was initiated by Ege Port Kuşadası. In the post-Covid era of 2021, it took the lead as the first Turkish port to



welcome international cruise traffic. By 2022, it had achieved the fastest growth rate among Mediterranean cruise ports compared to the pre-Covid era. The port aspires to serve 1 million passengers in 2024.

And these are just a fraction of the numerous remarkable milestones over the past 20 years that come to mind...



Sustainability is a growing concern in the maritime industry. Can you shed light on Ege Port Kuşadası's efforts to incorporate eco-friendly practices and its accomplishments in achieving green port certifications?

Ege Port Kuşadası initiated its sustainability journey when it achieved the ISO 14001 Environmental Management certificate in 2005. This marked the inception of our sustainability policies, which were established 18 years ago with a clear objective: to minimize waste by-products, implement a comprehensive recycling program, prioritize energy conservation, and eradicate air, sea, land, sound, and visual pollution stemming from port operations and its service providers.

Fast forward to today, Ege Port Kuşadası is on the brink of realizing its "zero waste" operational environment goal. It's diligently working to achieve energy self-sufficiency by harnessing renewable energy sources. The port adeptly manages liquid waste collected from cruise vessels, directing dewatered waste oil to energy production facilities and utilizing treated wastewater for garden irrigation following meticulous chemical and biological processes.

Ensuring safety and security is paramount in the cruise industry. Could you elaborate on the innovative safety and security practices that Ege Port Kuşadası has implemented to ensure a secure environment for both passengers and cruise ships?

Throughout the years, Ege Port Kuşadası has elevated its security services to such an extent that security has become a promotional asset. We proudly share our knowledge, best practices, and experiences with all GPH ports. As previously mentioned, the GPH Port & Terminal Facility Security Code, essentially GPH's proprietary ISPS code and more, is uniformly implemented across all GPH ports—a concept introduced by Ege Port Kuşadası in 2018. Regular security audits of GPH ports are also conducted by Ege Port Kuşadası's Security Management.

I would not be exaggerating if I assert that our pioneering operational model stands as the global standard for safety, security, and health protocols. When cruise ships approach Turkish ports from places like Spain, Italy, or Greece, their expectations of security standards undergo a substantial shift. Fully cognizant of this context, we have made substantial investments in our security infrastructure, equipment, and personnel since day one.

That being said, Ege Port Kuşadası boasts a security infrastructure outfitted with cutting-edge technologies. We likely stand as one of the ports with the most comprehensive compliance with the ISPS code. Our security encompasses sea, land, and underwater areas. Rigorous security protocols apply to all elements entering the port vicinity. The port entrance features a license plate recognition system and specialized hydraulic barriers. A dedicated team of 25 well-trained full-time staff ensures around-the-clock security services year-round. The port collaborates with solution partners, offering prompt services as needed, including underwater security, floating security barriers, and EDD (Explosive Detection Device) services. Recognizing that comprehensive security extends beyond the port premises, we maintain close cooperation with all city security agencies. A security committee, led by the District Governor, brings together the Municipality, Police Department, Coast Guard, Gendarmerie, Intelligence Agency, Harbor Master, Customs Directorate, and Ege Port Kuşadası. This committee convenes regularly to oversee port security.



In your role as the East Med Regional Director of Global Ports Holding, could you provide insights into the challenges and rewards of overseeing such a crucial region for cruise tourism?

The ports within the East Mediterranean region, under my responsibility, predominantly encompass cruise ports situated in developing cruise market areas, except for Kuşadası. Consequently, my region distinctly contrasts with ports in the Western and Central Mediterranean as well as the Americas region. The East Med area is highly sensitive to geopolitical shifts and challenges, occasionally experiencing fluctuations.

Collaborating closely with my fellow team members in the region—Port GMs and Port Managers—we are committed to showcasing the significance of cruise activities for the local community and economy. GPH ports play a pivotal role in fostering local tourism and bolstering economies in the countries of our operation. The adept Port GMs in the region, armed with extensive knowledge and experience, optimize GPH's port operating model. They work with exceptional zeal, effectively acting as voluntary tourism ambassadors for their respective countries and cities. As a united team, we maintain strong relationships and a cohesive team spirit. Our daily interactions foster our family-like bond at GPH, allowing us to harness synergy, trust, knowledge, and best practices to the fullest extent.

Any tips & tricks for future Cruise Port General Managers?

The cruise industry maintains a perpetual state of transformation. Keep abreast of industry trends, regulations, and emerging technologies to optimize your port's efficiency and service quality. Cultivate robust relationships with cruise line executives, local authorities, and relevant stakeholders. Ensure your team is trained to deliver exceptional service to passengers and crew. Place paramount importance on safety and security, collaborating closely with local authorities to guarantee the well-being of passengers and crew.

Regularly assess and enhance port infrastructure to accommodate larger vessels and manage increased passenger loads. Integrate sustainable practices into port operations, focusing on mitigating cruise-related environmental impact. Champion green initiatives and eco-friendly strategies. Be prepared for contingencies like natural disasters or health crises, with well-structured plans and rapid response capabilities.

Lastly, foster a culture of ongoing improvement. Encourage input from staff, cruise lines, and passengers to identify areas ripe for advancement. Your ability to embrace these strategies will define your journey as a Cruise Port General Manager.

BECOMING A SUCCESSFUL CRUISE PORT GENERAL MANAGER IS BOTH CHALLENGING AND REWARDING. IT DEMANDS A FUSION OF EXTENSIVE INDUSTRY KNOWLEDGE, ADEPT LEADERSHIP, AND ADAPTABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY NAVIGATE THE EVER-CHANGING CRUISE LANDSCAPE.





A PATHWAY THROUGH MALAGA'S NATURAL SPLENDOR

The Caminito del Rey stands as a magnificent testament to the natural beauty of Malaga, gracefully nestled between the charming municipalities of Alora, Antequera, and Ardales. This exceptional pathway, unparalleled in the world, meanders through this captivating landscape, ascending to an impressive height of three hundred and twenty-eight feet.

Stretching across nearly 5 miles, the course of the Caminito del Rey follows a linear path, guiding adventurers in a one-way direction. Much of this awe-inspiring route unfolds along suspended walkways seamlessly affixed to the rugged contours of the natural rock walls. Remarkably, the Caminito del Rey is accessible to individuals as young as 8 years old, without necessitating extensive physical conditioning.

Prepare to embark on a journey that not only showcases the stunning vistas of Malaga's countryside but also invites travellers of various ages and fitness levels to relish an unforgettable experience along the Caminito del Rey.

EMBARKING ON DISCOVERY: CROTONE'S TREASURES AND BEYOND

A journey to Crotona, a Mediterranean gem, is an invitation to bask in the splendors of this coastal treasure. Venture onwards to the majestic Sila National Park, a haven of natural wonders waiting to be explored. Prepare for an adventurous escapade, where every step leads to the discovery of Calabria's untamed beauty. Towering trees, crystalline lakes, and breathtaking landscapes become your backdrop as you immerse yourself in the region's unparalleled vistas.

Close by, the Lilio Astronomical Park beckons, a beacon of excellence in the realm of science. Collaborating with esteemed national and international research institutes, this park offers a unique fusion of nature and astronomy. A journey here unveils the cosmos in ways that captivate both the curious and the learned, leaving no room for disappointment.

For enthusiasts of medieval charm, Caccuri stands as a recommendation not to be missed. This village, adorned with a castle that whispers tales of the past, enchants visitors with its labyrinthine streets. Navigate the labyrinth of narrow alleyways, traverse steep ascents and descents, and wander through rocky ridges. Each turn unravels history's embrace, immersing you in the echoes of bygone days.

Your voyage to Crotona and beyond is a symphony of flavors, nature, and history. With every step, you'll uncover a world of wonders that beckon exploration, making each moment a testament to the beauty and allure of the Calabrian region.



NASSAU CRUISE PORT: WHERE ARCHITECTURE AND INNOVATION CONVERGE

The iconic Arrivals Terminal Building at Nassau Cruise Port stands as a captivating beacon of artistry and architectural innovation, welcoming travellers with its modern and awe-inspiring design. This architectural marvel not only serves as a striking entry point for visitors but also functions as a hub of essential services, ensuring a seamless and convenient experience for all who pass under its "breezeway".

The design of the Arrivals Terminal Building is a testament to the fusion of contemporary aesthetics and functional practicality. Drawing inspiration from the graceful curves and undulating forms of the ocean, the structure captures the essence of fluidity and movement. Its curvilinear shapes evoke images of smooth beach stones polished by the ebb and flow of moving tides. This organic influence harmoniously marries the maritime environment with the built environment, creating a sense of harmony that resonates throughout the terminal and the port project.

Designed by architecture and engineering firm Bermello Ajamil and Partners (B&A) and constructed by engineering and construction firm ENKA, the Arrivals Terminal Building is an iconic and eye-catching structure. Spanning an impressive 40,536 square feet, the Arrivals Terminal Building exudes a sense of grandeur while maintaining a welcoming ambiance to millions of passengers who visit Nassau annually.

The construction of this architectural masterpiece is a tangible symbol of innovation and progress. The Arrivals Terminal Building took 19 months to complete, and boasts 600,000 cubic feet of concrete, 450 tons of steel, 46 miles of cable, and 11,000 square feet of glass. It stands as a testament to the power of human imagination and the seamless integration of art and architecture, an enduring embodiment of Nassau Cruise Port's commitment to function, efficiency and beauty.

DISCOVER MALTA'S AQUATIC WONDERLAND



Nestled within the embrace of the Mediterranean, the captivating archipelago of Malta beckons adventurers to explore its underwater treasure troves. For those seeking an immersive aquatic experience, Malta's crystal-clear waters, hidden coves, sunken wrecks, and vibrant marine life provide the perfect canvas. Garnering consistent acclaim as a premier Mediterranean diving destination, Malta offers a diverse array of both offshore and boat-accessible diving sites.

Whether you're a novice or a seasoned pro, Malta's underwater realm accommodates all skill levels. Delve into the depths and uncover the mysteries held beneath the waves. From tranquil seascapes to captivating shipwrecks, each dive unveils a unique story waiting to be discovered. With a range of sites that cater to specific abilities, your underwater journey in Malta promises awe-inspiring encounters and unforgettable memories.

CAGLIARI: UNVEILING A RENAISSANCE OF SPLENDOR AND PROGRESS

Cagliari is currently undergoing a remarkable renaissance, poised to redefine itself from the ground up. Amidst these dynamic developments, one project stands out as a beacon of transformation: the revitalization of the iconic "Via Roma" promenade that graces the harbor's edge. This ambitious endeavor is set to rejuvenate Cagliari's waterfront, embracing the sea with the lush expanse of a verdant promenade.

Just steps away from Via Roma, the renowned Marina district beckons with its culinary delights. Venture into its charming labyrinth of alleys to savor the essence of Sardinia through its cuisine. One dish that reigns supreme is the tantalizing fregola, a jewel of traditional Sardinian fare meticulously paired with the bounty of the sea. And what better accompaniment than a glass of exquisite Bovale or Carignano wine? The choice is yours, as the region offers a multitude of wineries inviting you to savor the symphony of flavors.

Delving further into the island's treasures, Cagliari unveils its natural wonders. Embark on a horseback excursion through the enchanting Molentargius Natural Park, where nature's majesty unfolds before your eyes. For those seeking panoramic thrills, conquer the heights of Sella del Diavolo at Poetto. The reward is a vista that will leave you breathless, capturing Cagliari's splendor from an awe-inspiring perspective.

Cagliari's resurgence is an invitation to embrace its evolution. With each revitalized corner and newfound adventure, the city stands ready to reveal its beauty, culture, and exhilaration to all who step ashore.



EXPLORING TARRAGONA: A TAPESTRY OF CULTURE, TRANQUILITY, AND COASTAL CHARM

Just 15 km away from Tarragona Cruise Port lies the charming municipality of Vila-seca, beckoning with a trio of cultural gems within its embrace: the Vila-seca Castle, Vila-seca Celler (winery), and the Josep Carreras Auditorium. The castle's distinction as a Cultural Asset of National Interest is well-deserved, its architectural evolution over time lending it a neo-medieval allure. Transformed into an exhibition venue for contemporary art, it owes this new purpose to the collaborative efforts between the Vila Casas Foundation and Vila-seca City Council.

Adjacent to the castle stands the esteemed Celler de Vila-seca, deemed a Cultural Asset of Local Interest. Designed by the architect Pere Domènech i Roure in 1919, this building underwent recent restoration efforts as part of a broader project. Envisioned as a Cultural Park, it aligns with the neighboring Castell de Vila-seca and the Josep Carreras Auditorium to foster diverse cultural endeavors.

Vila-seca La Pineda Platja beckons as a coastal haven, gracing visitors with three kilometers of pristine golden beaches and tranquil cerulean waters. A leisurely stroll amidst the pine trees or along the shoreline promises unparalleled relaxation.

For golf enthusiasts, Vila-seca emerges as a veritable paradise. The Infinitum Golf & Beach Club boasts three state-of-the-art golf courses, each with its distinct character, spread over 200 hectares. The club's crown jewel is an array of eight infinity-style swimming pools, harmonizing with the exquisite dining options on offer. Vila-seca paints a picture of both cultural richness and natural allure, inviting travelers to embrace its multifaceted charm.

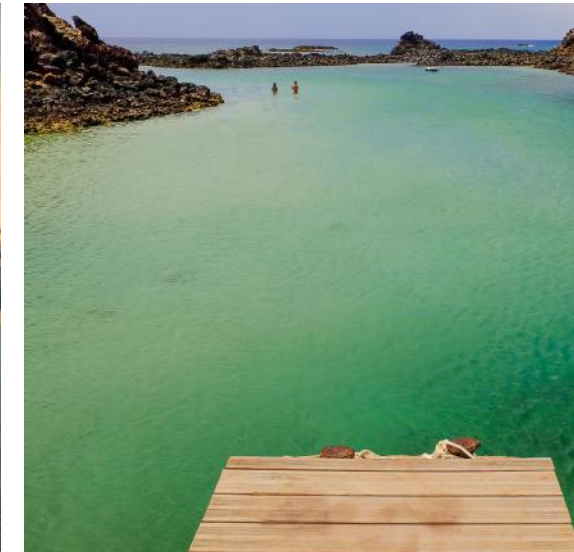
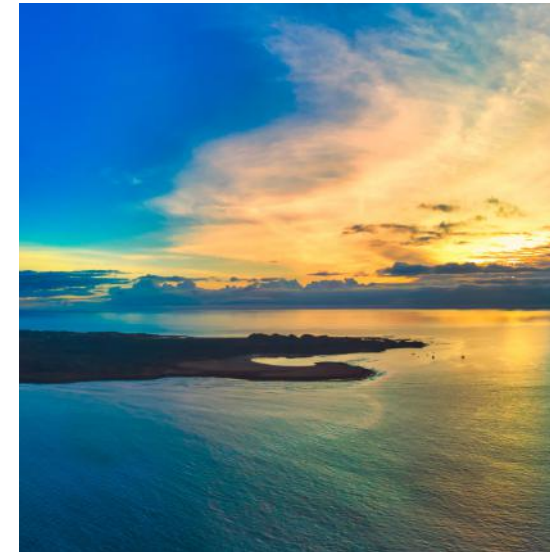
CULINARY ESCAPADES IN LA GOULETTE: A FEAST FOR THE SENSES

Embarking on an enchanting journey at La Goulette Cruise Port opens a gateway to a world of discovery. As your cruise ship docks, a treasure trove of enticing destinations awaits your exploration. From the bustling markets and captivating museums of Tunisia, the capital of Tunisia, to the tranquil coastal towns of Sidi Bou Said and Carthage, each locale is a chapter in a captivating story.

Amidst the ancient ruins and labyrinthine alleys, La Goulette presents an authentic culinary adventure that celebrates the vibrant tapestry of North African flavors. Prepare to indulge in iconic couscous dishes, savor mouthwatering tajines, and delight in the intricate sweetness of traditional pastries. The culinary creations of La Goulette are a fusion of Arab, Berber, and Mediterranean influences, inviting you to a sensory experience that embodies the region's cultural richness.

Local spices and farm-fresh produce come together to create a symphony of taste that will linger in your memory. With every bite, you'll feel the essence of Tunisia infusing your senses, a journey into the heart of its culinary heritage.

As the sun sets on this Mediterranean jewel, you'll carry with you the flavors, history, and charm of La Goulette. Its culinary adventures are just a part of the vibrant tapestry that awaits, promising an all-encompassing experience that will forever resonate in your heart.



EXPLORING THE ENCHANTMENT OF FUERTEVENTURA

Nestled within the azure embrace of the Canary Islands, just on the coast of Fuerteventura, the pristine islet of Lobos stands as an exquisite testament to nature's unspoiled beauty. Renowned for its unparalleled preservation, Lobos is a cherished protected natural area that boasts a unique and remarkable history.

The very name "Isla de Lobos" harks back to a time when this enchanting islet was inhabited by monk seals and sea lions, now sadly extinct within the Canary Islands. Today, Lobos, nestled near Fuerteventura, stands as a poignant reminder of the diverse wildlife that once called these shores home.

Embarking on the various tours available on Lobos Island allows you to immerse yourself in its timeless allure and captivating attractions. Every step unveils a window into history—a glimpse of a bygone era that reverberates through its landscape. This captivating islet serves as a living canvas of the past, transporting you to a world where time seemed to stand still.

Lobos Island isn't just a destination; it's a journey through time and space. As you traverse its serene trails and uncover its hidden gems, you'll find yourself captivated by the authenticity of its preserved treasures. Each step you take is a tribute to the past, an homage to the island's enduring spirit. Experience the magic of Lobos—a sanctuary nestled near Fuerteventura—where nature, history, and beauty converge in harmonious splendor.

SPECIAL FEATURE: BOŽIDAR LONGIN, THE COUNTY PREFECT OF ZADAR COUNTY

Zadar has proved in recent years to be the fastest growing cruise destination in Croatia, well recognized by cruise lines and appreciated by cruise guests.

Zadar Cruise Port, managed and operated by GPH since its opening in 2019, forecasts the most significant growth in the past 5 years and sets record numbers for cruise calls. According to the latest numbers, in 2024 Zadar Cruise Ports expects 118 cruise calls, marking an impressive increase of 64% compared to 72 cruise calls currently scheduled in 2023. Furthermore, berth reservations for 2025 already at this time show 99 calls, while new reservations are being accepted.

We have asked Mr. Bozidar Longin, the County Prefect of Zadar County, to tell us more about this thriving destination from his perspective, and to suggest what to see and do in this amazing and diverse area. Here is what he has told us:

What is the best description of Zadar County as a cruise and travel destination?

Zadar County represents 'Croatia in miniature' in the best way, because we have numerous islands, developed coastal area and hinterland with Ravni Kotari and Bukovica, and the mythical mountain Velebit.

Tourism is certainly our strongest economic sector. Guests, especially sailors, visit our 150 islands. Coastal towns and destinations are particularly attractive and easily accessible, and rural tourism in the hinterland is noticeable developing in the past years.

Pleasant Mediterranean climate, clean warm sea and untouched nature, rich cultural and historical heritage, superb gastronomic experiences, along with the well-known hospitality - this is what attracts guests from all over the world. Nature parks and national parks surround us, therefore Zadar County is the gateway from which all of them can be easily visited and explored.

How does Zadar differentiate in comparison to other Croatian cruise ports and destinations?

In Zadar, we have two cruise ports, one in the heart of old town, right next to our attractions Sea Organ and Greeting to the Sun, and the newly built, contemporary multi-awarded Zadar Cruise Port. All this allows us to easily accommodate up to five cruise ships simultaneously. Zadar is ideal for sailing in, it is extremely safe for docking, and Zadar Cruise Port passenger terminal was purposely built for turnaround and transit operations.

Zadar Cruise Port is well connected by a modern highway, and Zadar Airport is only a few minutes' drive away, where during the tourist season, airplanes from approximately 80 European destinations land.

In the vicinity of the city, we have five national parks and three nature parks which can be conveniently reached within an hour's drive.

With our position in the center of the Adriatic coast in Croatia, we cover as many as three regions (Lika-Senj, Zadar and Šibenik-Knin counties) which are all available and easily accessible for a variety of excursions and experiences offered to cruise guests.

How do you see partnership with GPH and further development of Zadar County as a cruise destination?

Zadar Cruise Port has immense development potential. I believe that partnership with GPH was the right choice, and I am looking forward to further progress of our alliance and to further development of our common goals.

For us it is of utmost importance that Zadar becomes a homeport and turnaround port in the next short period of time. We have been systematically working on this goal for years now, and we have found that GPH is the right partner on our mission of developing Zadar as a recognized and attractive cruise destination.

For this reason, we have also invested significant funds and efforts in further development of Zadar Airport. After the completion of this project, which consists of terminal expansion and extension of runway, we will be able to receive significantly larger airplanes, including those on transcontinental long-haul flights.

New world-class hotels are being built in the city of Zadar, and an additional benefit is the fact that in January of 2023 Croatia became part of the Eurozone and the Schengen area of free movement.

What is your message to those who have never been to Zadar, why should they choose Zadar?

Zadar is a 3,000-year-old town with significant importance throughout the history, especially as a vibrant and busy port town. The historical part of town is filled with cultural and architectural attractions, from ancient Roman Forum to the contemporary attractions such as the Sea Organ and Greetings to the Sun, from where you can see some of the most beautiful sunsets in the world.

The surrounding areas of the town are also very appealing, from numerous islands and islets which are particularly interesting to all sailors, to Ravni Kotari in hinterland, where cultivation of olives and vines is especially developed.

Olive growers and winemakers from Zadar County have been dedicated to increasing the quality of their oils and wines for years, resulting in winning the world's most prominent awards in these fields.

Famous Pag cheese, due to the particularity of the sheep's milk from which it is made, and the Pag lamb widely known, Zadar County has secured an important place on the gastronomic map of Europe, and even in the world.

Zadar County is recognized as the most fishing Croatian County due to the high number of commercial fishermen, but also because the pioneers of mariculture in Croatia have set up their first farms in the local water area. We are the leader in the Adriatic in the cultivation of white and blue fish, and shellfish, so we have a wide selection of local products to offer to our guests.

I would like to personally invite you to come and see for yourself, and to find that perfect spot, that perfect moment, that perfect flavour that will remain with you for a long time ahead!



That is why we have been branded as the must visit region for any foodie and any wine connoisseur.

Your recommendation for top 5 things to do and see while visiting Zadar County?

Firstly, visit the Zadar archipelago with many islands and islets, among which the Kornati National Park and the Telašćica Nature Park on Dugi Otok stand out. There are some amazing walking and biking tracks to enjoy in unspoiled nature.

I have already mentioned the excellent gastronomic offer that we recommend, and in that segment I would single out the island of Pag, which has as many as 3 food products protected by the European label of origin - Pag cheese, Pag lamb and Pag salt.

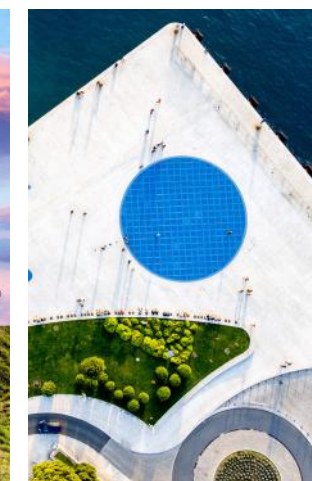
As a third attraction, I would point out the mountain Velebit, which offers a series of attractive hiking paths, off road drives and rock climbs. Especially for those who are eager for adrenaline, try rock climbing in the Starigrad - Paklenica National Park.

Then, you should definitely explore our cultural and historical heritage, which is especially abundant in the city of Zadar: from the historical city walls to Roman Forum, Five wells square, the church of St. Donatus, the cathedral of St. Anastasia and the church of St. Simon, where the body of the saint who held the baby Jesus in his arms is placed.

And finally, I would certainly mention our sea as the fifth attraction, because there are plenty of beautiful beaches in our County, and the crystal-clear sea to enjoy.



ZADAR CRUISE PORT AND
ZADAR COUNTY HAVE
IMMENSE POTENTIAL IN
THE CRUISE INDUSTRY





A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO EXCEPTIONAL CRUISE PORT DEVELOPMENT

Global Ports Holding operates some of the most exceptional and memorable cruise ports in the world focused on the cruise experience for passengers, highlighting the need to embody a commitment to excellence in service and customer satisfaction in the design of these terminals.

By taking a holistic approach to terminal design, GPH prioritizes the needs of passengers and the surrounding community with functional and efficient designs that incorporate clear and intuitive wayfinding, ample seating areas, and a range of convenient amenities. With a strong emphasis on sustainability, its terminal designs utilize energy-efficient technologies and minimize environmental impact through waste reduction.

Moreover, Global Ports Holding incorporates contemporary and welcoming design elements that reflect local culture and environment, in addition to state-of-the-art security systems, including CCTV coverage, security personnel, and other measures to ensure the safety and security of passengers and staff.

The company's commitment to designing functional, sustainable, and secure terminals that embody values of excellence and customer satisfaction sets it apart from competitors. As Global Ports Holding continues to expand its operations, this approach to terminal design will remain a top priority.

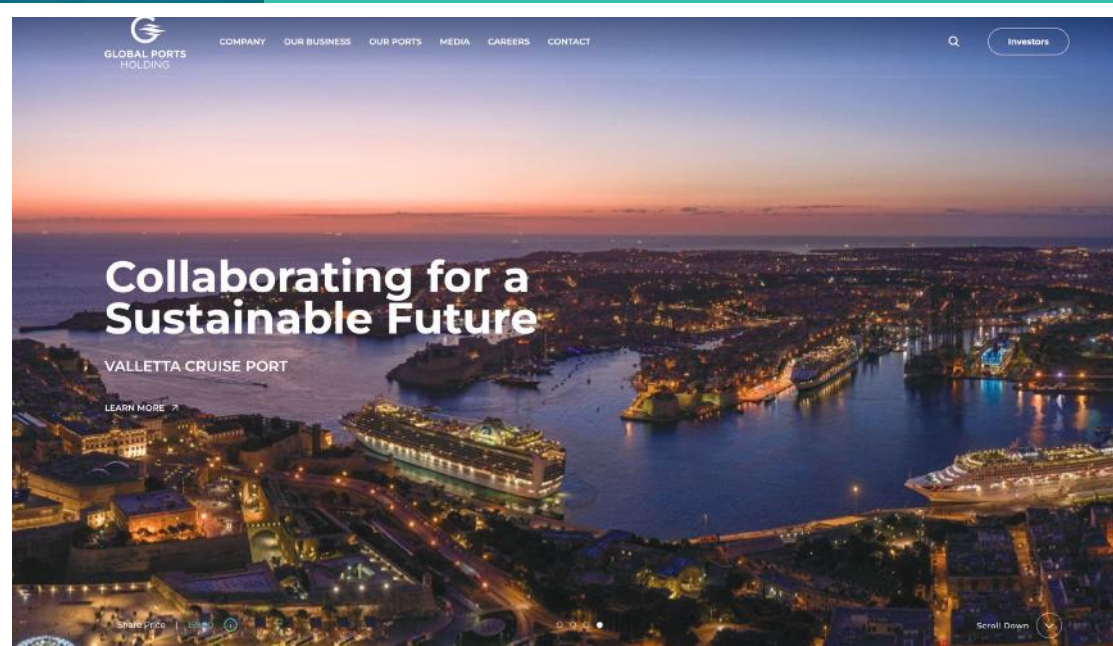


MILAN PORT EQUIPMENT

INTRODUCING THE STRATEGIC ALLIANCE OF GLOBAL PORTS HOLDING AND TALLERES MILAN:

Global Ports Holding, the world's leading cruise port operator, has joined forces with Talleres Milan, a company with over 70 years of experience in the naval and industrial sector, to bring you a complete, turnkey project for all your port equipment needs. With a focus on four key pillars - security, passenger experience, eco-efficiency, and health & safety - our alliance provides a comprehensive range of services, from design to construction, repair, and maintenance.

GPH LAUNCHES IT'S NEW WEBSITE



www.globalportsholding.com

GET THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS



With GPH's expertise in design and product development, and Talleres Milan's extensive experience in the naval and industrial sector, you can trust us to bring your ideas to life. From boarding bridges and scales to hydraulic equipment and luggage trolleys, our team of experts is dedicated to creating tailored solutions for both public and private companies in the ferry and cruise business.

**DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION,
REPAIR, MAINTENANCE
ALL IN ONE PLACE**

www.milanportequipment.com

LAS PALMAS: NATURE'S PLAYGROUND FOR SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS

Embraced by a blissful climate and adorned with picturesque natural vistas, Las Palmas unveils itself as an expansive open-air playground that caters to those with a penchant for outdoor sports. With its alluring landscapes and favorable weather throughout the year, it beckons sports enthusiasts to embark on a year-round journey of active exploration.

The temperate waters and consistent winds create an aquatic haven for water sports enthusiasts. Whether it's windsurfing, bodyboarding, paddle surfing, or kitesurfing, Las Palmas' pristine coastline and inviting waters offer a playground for these exhilarating pursuits. With over 128 stunning beaches to choose from, leisure activities such as swimming and basking in the sun's warm embrace become your ultimate relaxation.

For those drawn to the embrace of mountains, the rugged terrains beckon, inviting both seasoned professionals and eager amateurs to revel in nature's grandeur. Hiking trails that meander through lush landscapes, rock climbing that tests your mettle, mountain biking that winds through diverse ecosystems, road cycling along scenic routes, and trail running that promises adrenaline-fueled excitement—Gran Canaria's mountainous expanse is your canvas for adventure.

From heart-pounding feats to leisurely pursuits, this sun-kissed paradise provides the canvas for your athletic aspirations. Bring your family and friends along as you create memories, embracing the island's natural wonders while indulging your passion for sports. Gran Canaria isn't just a destination; it's a promise of exhilarating endeavors and unforgettable experiences that resonate through time.



UNVEILING ZADAR: A DAY OF ADVENTURE

When your cruise ship docks in Zadar, Croatia, get ready for an exhilarating day of adventure that combines the rush of white-water rafting with the excitement of quad biking. Zadar, known for its stunning natural landscapes and vibrant coastal charm, offers the perfect backdrop for an unforgettable shore excursion that will leave you with memories to last a lifetime.

Kickstart your day with an adrenaline-pumping white-water rafting experience on the scenic Zrmanja River. Just a short drive from Zadar, this river promises a thrilling journey through lush canyons, clear waters, and captivating waterfalls. As you navigate the river's twists and turns, you'll be surrounded by untouched natural beauty that takes you far from the ordinary.

After conquering the rapids, switch gears and hop onto a powerful quad bike for an off-road adventure that will get your heart racing. Explore rugged terrains, dusty trails, and panoramic viewpoints as you rev up your quad and venture deep into the Croatian wilderness. The combination of adrenaline and breathtaking scenery ensures an unforgettable quad biking experience that satisfies your craving for adventure.

Your quad biking journey will unveil hidden gems that might otherwise remain undiscovered. Encounter remote villages, lush forests, and sweeping vistas that showcase the diverse beauty of Zadar's surroundings. This immersive exploration offers a unique perspective on the region's natural wonders and allows you to connect with its wild spirit. Zadar's stunning natural playground, paired with heart-pounding activities, will leave you with a sense of accomplishment and an insatiable appetite for more adventure.



CATANIA: GATEWAY TO ADVENTURE AND ENCHANTMENT

For those with a yearning for exploration beyond the urban sprawl, Catania emerges as the quintessential destination. A mere stone's throw from the city's heart, a realm of adventure unfolds against the backdrop of natural marvels and cultural treasures.

Venture a short distance and you'll find yourself at the base of Europe's tallest active volcano, the majestic Etna. Soaring to a height of 3,330 meters above sea level, this fiery giant invites the bold-hearted to ascend its slopes, delving into an unparalleled journey through geological wonders. The summit offers a vista that stands as a testament to Earth's raw power and beauty.

For those seeking a more serene path, a stroll through the boutiques of Taormina awaits. Perched like a balcony overlooking the Ionian Sea, Taormina is famed for its Roman theatre that gazes upon the regal silhouette of Etna. Meandering through its streets, you'll encounter the spirit of antiquity mingling with modern elegance, a fusion that captures the essence of Sicily.

Catania isn't merely a destination; it's an invitation to savor life's myriad facets. With adventure, culture, and cuisine at its core, the city beckons the curious to step beyond, creating memories that will linger like the whispers of Etna's winds.



INDULGE IN
TRANQUILITY
IN HA LONG

Quang Hanh, renowned for its mineral-rich springs boasting one of the world's highest concentrations of bromine, has long been esteemed for its healing properties. These springs, celebrated for detoxification, pain relief, improved blood circulation, strengthened immunity, and assistance in skin ailments and stress reduction, have now become the heart of an exceptional wellness haven.

Nestled amidst the enchanting landscapes of Quang Ninh province, Yoko Onsen Quang Hanh introduces a truly authentic Japanese-style onsen and resort experience to Vietnam. Harnessing the precious thermal mineral waters of Quang Hanh, this sanctuary offers a rejuvenating haven for travelers seeking ultimate relaxation.

Yoko Onsen Quang Hanh extends its allure with thoughtfully designed washitsu rooms, each featuring a private bath and sauna for an elevated sense of indulgence. Beyond the restorative waters, the retreat encompasses a luxury spa, an array of restaurants, and food courts presenting an array of delectable Japanese and Vietnamese cuisine.

The sanctuary lies a mere 20-minute drive from Halong Cruise Port, a journey spanning 15 kilometers. Experience the embrace of Yoko Onsen Quang Hanh, where the harmony of nature and tradition converge to nurture your well-being.



CONQUER THE HEIGHTS AND EMBRACE THE THRILL IN MALTA

Beyond the sun-soaked beaches and historical allure, the rugged coastline of the Maltese Islands unveils an array of exhilarating activities for the intrepid explorer. Abseiling and rock climbing take center stage against the backdrop of Malta's dramatic cliffs and enchanting valleys. Crafted by nature's patient hand over millions of years, the limestone formations offer a playground for both beginners and seasoned climbers.

Venture to the vertical realms of sea cliff walls and traverse the mesmerizing contours of rocky landscapes. Engage in bouldering, deep water soloing, and sea-level traversing for an adrenaline-pumping experience. The islands' diverse terrain invites single and multi-pitch climbing, catering to a spectrum of challenge levels.

If a more traditional pursuit strikes your fancy, draw your bow and embrace the timeless art of archery. Amidst historic bastions, rugged landscapes, and breathtaking coastlines, archery takes on a new allure. Set against picturesque settings, this age-old activity lets you channel your inner Robin Hood or Katniss Everdeen. With a backdrop as captivating as the sport itself, archery in Malta becomes an unforgettable adventure for all ages and abilities.

SAVORING TARANTO: A CULINARY VOYAGE THROUGH FLAVORFUL DELIGHTS

In Taranto, the streets come alive with a symphony of tastes that reveal the heart and soul of this coastal gem. Among the cobblestones and historic sites, the city's culinary offerings stand as a testament to its rich heritage and vibrant culture.

At the heart of Taranto's gastronomic identity lies the irresistible tarantine bombette. Crafted by skilled butchers, these succulent meat rolls are a true culinary masterpiece. Each bite unveils a burst of flavors as tender meat envelops ham and cheese, creating an explosion of taste that lingers on the palate.

Beyond bombette, Taranto's gastronomic landscape is a tapestry of local flavors and traditions. Seafood takes center stage, harvested fresh from the surrounding azure waters. From tender octopus salads to

exquisite seafood risottos, each dish is a testament to Taranto's deep connection with the sea.

For those who seek comfort in simpler pleasures, a stroll through Taranto's markets offers a glimpse into daily life and its delectable treasures. Sample the array of olives, cheeses, and breads that adorn the stalls, each a reflection of the region's culinary prowess.

Taranto's culinary journey is an exploration of taste, where every dish carries a story of tradition and passion. With every bite, you'll be transported into the heart of this enchanting city, where food isn't just sustenance—it's an invitation to savor life's authentic and delectable moments.



SANTOSA ISLAND: A CAPTIVATING OASIS IN SINGAPORE

Nestled in the heart of Singapore's bustling maritime landscape lies the enchanting Santosa Island – a vibrant haven that beckons cruise passengers to explore its diverse attractions and immerse themselves in a world of entertainment and relaxation.

Accessible with ease from Singapore's bustling cruise terminals, Santosa Island offers a well-rounded experience that caters to the interests of all travelers. Whether you're seeking thrilling adventures, serene escapes, or cultural enrichment, this island paradise has it all.

For the adventure-seekers among cruise passengers, Santosa boasts a plethora of heart-pounding activities. The Skyline Luge Sentosa offers an exhilarating ride down lush hillsides, providing a unique blend of speed and control. The Mega Adventure Park features a breathtaking zipline and treetop obstacle course that will leave adrenaline junkies craving for more.

Travelers in search of tranquility will find solace at the island's pristine beaches. Sink your toes into the soft sands of Palawan Beach or Tanjong Beach, bask in the warm tropical sun, and let the gentle lapping of waves soothe your soul. Alternatively, rejuvenate your senses at the luxurious spa retreats that offer world-class treatments against a backdrop of lush greenery.

Santosa Island is also steeped in cultural experiences. Explore Universal Studios Singapore for a taste of Hollywood magic or venture to S.E.A. Aquarium to discover marine wonders from around the globe. The island's rich history is showcased at Fort Siloso, a preserved coastal artillery battery that offers a glimpse into Singapore's wartime past.



UNVEILING KALUNDBORG'S WINE-MAKING HERITAGE

Nestled along the picturesque shores of Denmark, Kalundborg welcomes travelers to explore a heritage deeply intertwined with the art of wine making. Beyond its charming landscapes and quaint streets, this coastal town carries a hidden legacy that has left an enduring mark on the region throughout the ages.

Kalundborg's connection to the craft of winemaking traces back to medieval times, when its fertile soil and favorable climate provided an ideal environment for cultivating grapes. The town's history is intertwined with the intricate process of tending vineyards and producing exceptional wines. Flourishing maritime trade routes allowed Kalundborg's wines to gain recognition beyond Denmark's borders.

The rolling hills of Kalundborg yielded grapes that produced wines celebrated for their unique flavors and characteristics. The town's vineyards became a source of pride, and the expertise of its winemakers gained renown throughout the region. The artistry of crafting wines was handed down through generations, creating a tradition that continues to flourish.

As you meander through Kalundborg's charming streets, the echoes of the past resonate within its wine cellars and vineyards. The town's commitment to preserving its winemaking legacy shines through its museums, exhibitions, and events that honor the artistry and craftsmanship of bygone eras.

Kalundborg's story of wine-making heritage stands as a testament to its dedication in preserving its cultural legacy. It invites travelers to step back in time, savor the flavors of the past, and embrace the craftsmanship that has shaped this coastal town into the captivating destination it is today.



CONSISTENT BRAND
PRESENCE WITH
LOCAL DISTINCTION

Introducing Ceylan Erzi Yaman, Marketing Director at Global Ports Holding, the world's largest cruise port operator.

Ceylan Erzi Yaman's journey, evolving from diverse marketing roles to her current leadership position, has been instrumental in shaping GPH brand in the cruise industry. Since her entry into GPH in 2014, her role in implementing effective marketing strategies has cemented GPH's standing as a global leader as a cruise port operator.

Could you provide insights into the unique approach that GPH takes in its marketing strategy?

Certainly, GPH's marketing strategy centers around distinct brand positioning and tailored messaging, setting it apart within the cruise industry. As the world's largest cruise port operator, our marketing efforts are aimed at achieving several objectives. First and foremost, we focus on enhancing brand awareness, ensuring that GPH is recognized as the best partner to work with as a cruise port operator, known for our quality, reliability, and commitment to excellence. We also work diligently to promote the unique destinations that our ports serve, showcasing the rich culture and experiences awaiting cruise passengers.

Moreover, we take pride in our role as a local partner, actively engaging with the communities surrounding our ports. This includes sustainable tourism practices that benefit local economies and the environment alike.

This approach effectively engages a diverse audience, including cruise lines seeking future-ready partners, local communities benefiting from sustainable tourism practices, cruise passengers relying on trustworthy local insights, potential ports gaining access to an esteemed port platform and our investors.

How does GPH ensure consistent marketing communications across its diverse ports, while also emphasizing the distinctive characteristics of each destination?

GPH maintains consistent marketing communications across its 27 ports by harmonizing messaging, visual identities, and branding elements. This balance ensures stakeholders encounter familiarity and reliability as they traverse different GPH ports.

Central to our marketing approach is the communication of GPH's brand promise. This promise encompasses our commitment to being the industry's best operating model, prioritizing safety and security, investing in future-ready ports while delivering an exceptional passenger experience. Simultaneously, we place a strong emphasis on showcasing each destination's unique cultural, historical, and natural features. This approach not only aligns with our brand promise but also celebrates the distinct charm and attractions of each port in our network.

Our GPH Port websites exemplify this alignment, offering the same detailed information consistently while highlighting the local appeal across all ports. This strategic consistency not only ensures a unified brand presence but also allows us to spotlight each port's distinctive characteristics effectively.

Can you discuss GPH's approach to positioning cruise ports and tailoring marketing strategies?

Positioning cruise ports involves a nuanced process that carefully considers the unique attributes and potential of each port. Acknowledging that not all ports require the same level of support, our strategies adapt accordingly. We conduct thorough analyses of each port's positioning and then craft tailored marketing strategies. This approach ensures that our efforts align precisely with each port's strengths and requirements, enabling us to effectively cater to the diverse destinations within our network.

For instance, consider Bodrum, where the luxury appeal is on the rise. We communicate these attributes by organizing tailored fam trips for luxury cruise lines. Simultaneously, we enhance this sense of luxury through strategic placement within cruise publications, effectively captivating those seeking

a lavish journey. Similarly, in Lisbon, with substantial investments in terminal facilities and its strategic location, the potential for homeport operations is high. In response, our port's slogan is "Welcome to Your New Home." We also closely collaborate with the airport to jointly promote Lisbon as a preferred homeport destination, leading to positive outcomes.

Our process of positioning cruise ports and crafting tailored marketing strategies underscores our dedication to preserving each port's individuality. By matching our plans with what each port is really good at, we make sure our way of doing things stands out clearly to the right audience.

How does GPH effectively promote its cruise ports?

GPH employs a comprehensive approach, combining both online and offline strategies. This includes working closely with local partners to ensure a consistent message across different platforms.

Relationship marketing plays a pivotal role, fostering strong connections with stakeholders. We prioritize building lasting partnerships with cruise lines, local communities, and industry influencers. Participation in industry events provides an effective platform to showcase the distinctive features of its ports and is an important component of relationship marketing. Through one-on-one meetings, press conferences, dedicated events and customized marketing materials, GPH effectively conveys the unique appeal of its ports. GPH not only participates in these events but also actively supports its ports and destinations in hosting them, thereby enhancing visibility and engagement.

Familiarization trips (fam trips) constitute a cornerstone of GPH's strategy, offering stakeholders firsthand experiences of the destination and port offerings. Collaborative efforts among various ports bolster mutual promotion, enhancing the allure of the cruise network as a whole.

GPH leverages a variety of platforms, including websites, digital channels, and robust social media engagement. This concerted online presence elevates visibility and extends GPH's reach to a broader audience, engaging stakeholders and passengers alike. The GPH quarterly newsletter serves as a great tool for communication, delivering port updates and fostering a sense of community among industry professionals.

Furthermore, GPH's engagement extends to destination marketing, achieved through collaborations with local authorities. The channels for destination marketing are diverse, underscoring GPH's commitment to enhancing the overall cruise experience.

POSITIONING CRUISE
PORTS IS A NUANCED
PROCESS THAT
CONSIDERS EACH
PORT'S DISTINCT
ATTRIBUTES AND
POTENTIAL.



In recent years, there has been growing concern about over-tourism and environmental impact due to cruise tourism. How does GPH contribute to mitigating these concerns?

Sustainability is at the core of GPH's identity and drives our growth. We acknowledge the challenges associated with cruise tourism, including over-tourism and environmental impact. In response, we've taken proactive measures to address these concerns and promote a more responsible cruise tourism model.

At the heart of our strategy is collaboration with local stakeholders to identify solutions and initiatives. Notably, we're committed to staying ahead of the curve by preparing our ports for onshore power and promoting alternative transportation modes like smart car rentals. In addition, we partner with cruise lines to diversify excursion options, steering away from the most popular ones. This encourages visitors to explore lesser-known areas, distributing the tourist footprint more evenly and alleviating pressure on crowded sites.

Supporting local research and referring to global industry studies on cruise tourism's impact remains key. Together with local authorities we draw attention to these studies and their findings. Our goal is to create a comprehensive understanding of how cruise tourism benefits including positive economic impact and encouraging return visits from satisfied passengers.

Furthermore, our commitment to education and awareness is evident through events we host within our ports. An example is "Summer Cool," an initiative we organize in Antigua. These events provide platforms for meaningful discussions and informative sessions among local stakeholders to educate and convey the benefits of responsible cruise tourism.



BEYOND THE SUN, SEA, AND SAND: DELVING INTO ANTIGUA & BARBUDA'S HISTORIC DEPTHS

When you think about visiting Antigua & Barbuda, sun, sea, and sand probably come to mind, and with good reason as the destination offers a wide range of pristine beaches and warm weather. But there's more to the twin-island state and those wanting to learn more about the country's history can do so by visiting the renowned Nelson's Dockyard. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2016, Nelson's Dockyard forms part of The Antigua Naval Dockyard and Related Archaeological Sites. Nelson's Dockyard is located in the south of Antigua, and it will take you 40 minutes to get there from the country's capital, St. John's.

The trip will be worth it to uncover the naval base which began its history in the early eighteenth century. From 1725- 1740, the British Royal Navy occasionally used the harbour without investing in its upkeep. It was only when the French began building out their infrastructure to attack the British in neighbouring Guadeloupe and Martinique did the British Royal Navy begin to use the Dockyard regularly and construction on the Antigua Naval Dockyard began.

Most of the buildings in the Dockyard were constructed between 1780 and 1820 but with a period of inactivity following, the dockyard closed in 1889 and fell into disrepair. However, through a series of efforts the Dockyard was reopened as a historic site in 1961 with the name, "Nelson's Dockyard" after its most famous commander, Horatio Nelson. Visitors to Nelson's Dockyard can now enjoy the fully- restored architecture and take in the history at the Dockyard Museum. Art galleries, gift shops, and restaurants also occupy the property making it the perfect place to visit during your time in Antigua.



EMBARKING ON THE CAMI DE RONDA TRAIL IN BARCELONA

Barcelona's vibrant pulse lures visitors worldwide to indulge in its urban allure and abundant attractions. Amidst the city's captivating energy, the encompassing natural wonders of the greater Catalunya region often remain overshadowed. Beyond the urban bustle lies a diverse tapestry of landscapes—pristine beaches, towering mountains, and verdant forests—all within arm's reach. Nestled among these treasures is an adventure that caters to every traveler's profile: the Cami De Ronda trail in Costa Brava.

The Cami De Ronda traces a time-honoured path along Costa Brava's picturesque coastline, weaving through sea promenades, sandy shores, and lush green expanses. Its trail meanders with diverse terrain, encompassing gentle slopes, level clearances, invigorating uphill, and exhilarating downhill. Notably, this trail is a year-round delight, perfectly suiting hiking and trekking enthusiasts with its flexibility across all 365 days.

The Cami De Ronda offers two thoughtfully planned routes: a linear 43km journey and a circular 140km expedition. The linear route stretches across the coast, commencing from the quaint village of Sant Feliu de Guixols and culminating at the stunning Begur, famed for its secluded beach coves. For the more intrepid adventurers, the grand 140km circuit delves into the mountainous terrain after reaching Begur, forming a magnificent loop back to its origin. Spanning up to 8 days, this longer path unveils the heart of Girona, treating you to panoramic vistas of majestic mountains, sheer cliffs, and tucked-away villages.

A genuine outdoor odyssey awaits just beyond Barcelona's doorstep, offering a serene sanctuary for those seeking respite from the urban clamour. The Cami De Ronda stands as a testament to the region's natural splendour, inviting all who yearn for a tranquil escape from the city's bustling rhythm.



RIDING THE WAVES OF ADVENTURE IN LISBON

Just a little over an hour's drive from Lisbon Cruise Port, lies the captivating coastal town of Nazaré in Portugal. A haven for thrill-seekers and adventurers, this destination is an irresistible draw for those seeking excitement and wonder. What sets Nazaré apart? Its legendary big surf waves that have become a global sensation, captivating hearts worldwide.

For cruise passengers in search of a truly remarkable experience, Nazaré's towering waves offer a spectacle unlike any other. These monumental swells, rising to unfathomable heights, command both respect and admiration for the raw forces of nature. Gazing out from the shoreline, passengers witness intrepid surfers riding these colossal walls of water, a display of courage, skill, and sheer determination that takes the breath away.

Yet Nazaré offers more than awe-inspiring waves. The town envelops visitors in a charming coastal ambiance, seamlessly blending traditional Portuguese culture with contemporary beachfront amenities. Wander through narrow cobblestone streets, indulge in fresh seafood delicacies at waterfront eateries, and explore local crafts and souvenirs.

Beyond its waves, Nazaré pulses with an international community of surf enthusiasts, infusing the town with vitality and enthusiasm. Cruise passengers find camaraderie, sharing tales and experiences, and even participating in surfing lessons and water sports. With top-notch facilities catering to all skill levels, Nazaré ensures an inclusive and unforgettable experience for every visitor.



KUSADASI: A VIBRANT GATEWAY TO RICH HISTORY AND NATURAL SPLENDOR

Nestled along the picturesque coastline of Turkey, Kusadasi beckons travellers with its captivating blend of history, culture, and stunning natural beauty. This vibrant destination offers a harmonious marriage of ancient relics, vibrant markets, and serene landscapes, making it a must-visit for those seeking an immersive experience.

For those seeking a tranquil retreat, Kusadasi unveils its natural gem: Dilek Peninsula-Buyuk Menderes Delta National Park. This pristine sanctuary houses a diverse ecosystem, ranging from lush forests to tranquil lagoons. Embark on hikes through picturesque trails, relishing panoramic views of the Aegean Sea and taking in the sights and sounds of indigenous flora and fauna.

The park's coastline is equally enchanting, with secluded coves and pristine beaches offering a serene escape. Unwind on sandy shores, soak up the sun, or take a dip in the azure waters. Nature enthusiasts and birdwatchers will find solace in the park's rich biodiversity, with a chance to spot rare species in their natural habitats.

Kusadasi effortlessly bridges the gap between antiquity and natural splendor, inviting travellers to explore its historical depths and savor its tranquil landscapes. Whether you're drawn to the echoes of ancient civilizations or the serenity of untouched nature, Kusadasi promises an unforgettable journey filled with enriching experiences.

A LOVE LETTER TO THE CITY OF PRINCE RUPERT

Step aboard the Prince Rupert Trolley Tour for an enchanting journey that seamlessly blends history, culture, and natural beauty. This vintage trolley experience is more than just a ride; it's a delightful exploration of Prince Rupert's past and present.

As travellers embark on their 90-minute adventure, the trolley's quaint charm immediately transports them to a bygone era. Winding their way through the heart of Prince Rupert, with its picturesque streets and intriguing landmarks. The trolley's open design ensures revellers won't miss a single captivating view.

Guides narrate the tour with engaging tales of the city's history, sharing anecdotes that breathe life into its storied past. From its indigenous roots to its growth as a vibrant coastal hub, travellers gain insights into Prince Rupert's evolution.

But the journey isn't just about history; it's a celebration of the city's modern vibrancy too. The trolley meanders past bustling markets, inviting cafés, and local gems, showcasing the rhythm of daily life in this charming coastal town.

What truly sets the Prince Rupert Trolley Tour apart is its commitment to inclusivity. The tour is wheelchair accessible, ensuring that everyone can partake in this delightful adventure. Flexibility in departure times based on guests' abilities ensures that no one misses out on the experience.

The Prince Rupert Trolley Tour isn't just a tour; it's a love letter to the city. It's a chance to embrace its history, immerse oneself in its present, and contribute to its future. Whether you're a history buff, a nature lover, or simply seeking a charming escapade, this trolley tour promises an unforgettable and inclusive experience that leaves everyone with a deeper connection to Prince Rupert's heart and soul.



UNVEILING THE ENCHANTMENT OF AEGEAN LUXURY IN BODRUM

Nestled along the enchanting shores of the Aegean Sea, Bodrum stands as a cherished gem within Turkey's realm of tourism. Here, an irresistible fusion of opulent modernity and unspoiled natural beauty beckons, casting a spell on every visitor.

Setting foot ashore at Bodrum Cruise Port, the Heliport emerges as your doorway to the extraordinary. Mere steps from the harbor, it invites you to embark on unparalleled experiences. Private helicopter tours unveil Bodrum's splendor from an aerial vantage point, where you'll witness the coastline's magnificence and the azure sea in a breathtaking new light. Beyond, the Heliport serves as a gateway to illustrious destinations like the ancient city of Ephesus, where time-worn ruins come alive, and the astonishing travertine terraces of Pamukkale, a natural marvel that stirs awe. Elevated by the ease and luxury of helicopter travel, these wonders become within reach, imbuing your Bodrum cruise with an element of adventure and refinement.

Beyond the landscapes and landmarks, it's the warm embrace of Turkish hospitality that captures hearts. The sincere amiability and open-heartedness of the locals envelop visitors, transforming mere trips into heartwarming journeys. And then there's the cuisine, a tantalizing revelation of Aegean flavors. Bodrum's traditional dishes are a symphony for the taste buds, harmonizing fresh ingredients, artful spice blends, and generations of culinary mastery.

In the embrace of Bodrum's shores, a world of wonder and luxury unfolds, where history, nature, and hospitality weave an unforgettable narrative.

ECHOES OF MALAGA'S HERITAGE



Immerse yourself in the captivating narrative of Malaga's past as you explore the Alcazaba and Gibralfaro Castle, monuments that stand as timeless witnesses to the city's vibrant history. With their origins dating back to the eleventh through fourteenth centuries, these monumental fortresses encapsulate the enduring legacy of Moorish influence in the heart of Andalusia.

The Alcazaba, an architectural masterpiece, greets visitors with intricate detailing and enchanting gardens that whisper secrets from centuries gone by. Wandering through its labyrinthine alleys, adorned with ornate arches and delicate stucco work, transports you to an era of opulence and cultural fusion. This citadel exudes an aura of majesty, as if its very walls are imbued with the echoes of the past.

High above, Gibralfaro Castle stands as both a guardian and a sentinel, its foundations echoing tales of valor and conquest. As you ascend towards its pinnacle, an awe-inspiring panorama unfolds before your eyes. The city of Malaga sprawls at your feet, a tapestry of modernity woven with threads of antiquity. Beyond, the Mediterranean Sea stretches to the horizon, an azure expanse that once united civilizations through trade and diplomacy.

In exploring the Alcazaba and Gibralfaro Castle, you are not merely a spectator of history—you become a participant in the unfolding story of Malaga. These iconic landmarks are more than stone and mortar; they are bridges between eras, connecting past and present, inviting you to traverse the footsteps of those who shaped the city's destiny.

EXPLORING THE ESSENCE OF FLAVOR IN LANZAROTE



Undoubtedly, the most exquisite treasure nestled within Lanzarote's volcanic embrace is its wine. Born from the very heart of the volcano, the cultivation of vines here is a marvel to behold. Nowhere is this experience more captivating than in the La Geria region—a landscape of profound cultural significance, safeguarded by law. Lanzarote's Regulatory Council for the Denomination of Origin ensures the wines' impeccable quality, meticulously overseeing every facet of production.

Venturing beyond the vineyards, Lanzarote's cheeses beckon with flavors that transcend borders. These dairy creations have not only graced numerous international competitions but have also claimed prestigious accolades. Their essence lies in a traditional crafting process, a legacy that renders them truly exceptional. Embark on a journey to one of Lanzarote's cheese dairies, and you'll be privy to the artistry that goes into their creation. Witness the mastery of skilled artisans, as they unveil the secrets that shape these delectable cheeses, each boasting its own unique character.

Immerse yourself in Lanzarote's culinary tapestry as you explore its wine and cheese culture. The island's wines, nurtured by the fiery embrace of its volcanic soil, carry a distinct character that mirrors its landscape. Meanwhile, its cheeses, crafted with time-honored techniques, are an embodiment of tradition and expertise. Lanzarote's culinary heritage is an invitation to savor the terroir and craftsmanship that elevate these treasures to extraordinary heights.

EL YUNQUE RAINFOREST: A PUERTO RICAN ADVENTURE

Tucked away in the northeastern corner of Puerto Rico lies a natural wonder that beckons adventurers and nature enthusiasts from around the world. El Yunque National Forest, often referred to as the "Rainforest of the Caribbean". From its dense foliage to its enchanting waterfalls, El Yunque Rainforest adventure promises a journey like no other.

The heart of El Yunque's allure lies in its network of well-maintained trails that wind through its lush landscapes. Each trail offers a unique perspective of the rainforest's beauty. The La Mina Trail, for instance, leads adventurers to the mesmerizing La Mina Falls, a cascading waterfall where you can cool off in the crystal-clear pool beneath. The Big Tree Trail, on the other hand, introduces visitors to ancient trees with towering trunks, a reminder of the forest's longevity.

The auditory experience of El Yunque is as captivating as its visual beauty. The chorus of coqui frogs fills the air with their melodic calls, creating an ambient soundtrack that is both enchanting and soothing. Birdsong, the rustle of leaves, and the gentle trickle of waterfalls create a symphony that envelops explorers in a natural serenade.

Efforts to conserve and preserve El Yunque's delicate ecosystem are ongoing. Visitors are encouraged to practice Leave No Trace principles, ensuring that this natural treasure remains intact for generations to come. A visit to El Yunque Rainforest is an invitation to disconnect from the hustle and bustle of daily life and immerse oneself in the beauty of the natural with each step taken within its lush embrace.



DIVING: EXPLORING UNDERWATER TREASURES OF BAR

The Adriatic Sea surrounding Bar holds a world of wonder beneath its surface, making diving an essential adventure for aquatic explorers. Rich marine life, underwater caves, and historic shipwrecks await those who venture beneath the waves. Whether you're a certified diver or a beginner looking to take your first plunge, there are dive centers in Bar that offer courses and guided experiences. Explore the vibrant ocean, encounter schools of fish, and uncover the mysteries of the underwater world that lies just offshore.

Bar, Montenegro, is more than just a coastal town; it's a playground for adventure seekers. From kayaking along the stunning coastline and canyoning through dramatic ravines to diving into the depths of the Adriatic Sea, this destination offers a dynamic range of activities for every thrill level. Each adventure allows you to connect with the natural beauty of Montenegro in a unique and unforgettable way. Whether you're chasing an adrenaline rush or simply looking to explore the great outdoors, Bar has the adventures you've been craving. So, gear up, embrace the excitement, and dive into the heart-pounding experiences that await in this captivating coastal haven.



THE ENIGMATIC BEAUTY OF SAINT LUCIA'S PITONS

Saint Lucia, a tropical paradise in the Caribbean, offers a diverse range of activities that cater to every type of traveler. From pristine beaches to lush rainforests, this stunning island is a playground for nature enthusiasts, adventure seekers, and those in search of relaxation.

Rising dramatically from the azure waters of the Caribbean Sea, the Pitons stand as iconic sentinels of Saint Lucia's breathtaking landscape. These twin volcanic peaks, Gros Piton and Petit Piton, are not only a defining feature of the island's geography but also a symbol of its natural allure and mystique.

Beyond their physical grandeur, the Pitons hold spiritual and cultural significance for the people of Saint Lucia. They are considered a UNESCO World Heritage Site, recognized not only for their geological uniqueness but also for the role they play in the island's history and folklore. The Pitons are believed to have served as navigational landmarks for indigenous communities and later as landmarks for European explorers.

In every shadow they cast and every silhouette they create against the backdrop of the Caribbean sunsets, the Pitons exude a timeless allure that captures the imagination and soothes the soul. As you stand in the presence of these towering titans, you become part of a narrative that spans millennia—connecting the past, present, and future. The Pitons not only embody Saint Lucia's natural wonders but also embody the indomitable spirit of exploration and adventure that defines the human experience. They stand as a reminder that amid the vastness of the world, there are places that touch the heart and awaken a sense of wonder, leaving an indelible mark on those fortunate enough to experience their majesty.



ONLY ONE OF THE WONDERS OF ALICANTE

The Castle of Santa Bárbara stands as a captivating testament to Alicante's rich history, offering a glimpse into the city's past and a commanding view of its present. Perched majestically atop Mount Benacantil, this medieval fortress has witnessed centuries of events and transformations, making it an iconic landmark that beckons visitors to explore its storied grounds.

Dating back to the 9th century when the Moors ruled the region, the castle's origins are shrouded in mystery and legends. It wasn't until the 13th century, during the reign of King Alfonso X of Castile, that the castle's walls and defenses were reinforced. Over the centuries, the castle underwent various expansions and modifications under different rulers, including the Aragonese dynasty.

One of the most captivating aspects of the Castle of Santa Bárbara is its strategic location. Perched at an altitude of 166 meters, it provides unobstructed panoramic views of Alicante, the Mediterranean Sea, and the surrounding landscapes. As visitors ascend to the castle, they are rewarded with breathtaking vistas that showcase the city's modern skyline juxtaposed against the historical charm of its old town and the glistening waters beyond.

Today, the Castle of Santa Bárbara stands not only as a historical monument but also as a cultural hub. It hosts cultural events, exhibitions, and concerts that celebrate Alicante's heritage and creativity. The castle's allure is not limited to history enthusiasts; its scenic beauty and panoramic views make it a popular destination for both locals and tourists alike.



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